Chief Presidency Magistrate's Court. The fee payable to the Law officers concerned for the appeals in the High Court has not yet been settled.

" (c) & (e) The appeal was filed after consultation with the Advocate-General.

" (d) No letter from the hon. Member, dated 19th May 1946, was received by the Government."

(Sri S. A. S. Rm. Ramanatham Chettiar wanted a Tamil translation of the answer.)

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You know English. If you want, I shall ask the Hon. Minister to read out the answer again."

(The answer was read out a second time.)

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if the Advocate-General advised the Government to file an appeal against the decision of the Chief Presidency Magistrate? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is the presumption."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Who appeared on behalf of Government in the appeal, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The Advocate-General, Sir."

SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAM CHETTIYAR :—" எனது 19-ம் தேதி லெட்டரை மந்திரிக்கு அனுப்பி காப்பி வைத்திருக்கிறேன். "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" அந்த லெட்டர் வரவில்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறேன். "

SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAM CHETTIYAR :—" இந்த கேசுக்கு பணம் சிலவாகவில்லையா ? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" முதல் கேசுக்கு பணம் சிலவு இல்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறேன். அப்பீலுக்கு எவ்வளவு பணம் சிலவாகும் என்று இன்னும் தெரியவில்லை. "

SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAM CHETTIYAR :—" அதற்கு எவ்வளவு சிலவாகும் என்று தெரியுமா? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" அதைப்பற்றி நான் பதில் சொல்வதற்கு தயாராக இல்லை. "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The intention of the question seems to be whether Government was justified in preferring the opinion of the Advocate-General." (Laughter.)

Court of Enquiry to enquire into Labour disputes.

* 161 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Sri P. R. K. Sarma) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Court of Enquiry has been appointed to enquire into the conditions of the workers in the Motor Transport Engineering, Type-casting and other allied concerns and make recommendations to the Government;

(*b*) if so, what the scope and terms of reference of the enquiry are;

(*c*) who are the persons constituting the Court of Enquiry and what is the immediate necessity for the constitution of the Court of Enquiry;

(*d*) whether the constitution of this Court of Enquiry is intended to suspend or put an end to all conciliation proceedings and negotiations between various organized Trade Unions and employers in the industries that have been going on;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Madras Provincial Foundry, Smithy and General Engineering Works Union, representing the workers employed in about thirty engineering firms gave notice of a strike of definite demands;

(*f*) whether the notice of strike was withdrawn on the assurance of the Commissioner of Labour to intercede and bring about a settlement;

(*g*) whether negotiations between the said Union and the concerned employers have been going on with the help of the Commissioner of Labour for the last six months and final agreement was about to be reached when the Court of Enquiry was announced by the Government;

(*h*) whether the said conciliation proceedings and negotiations between the Union and Engineering employers have been given up by the Commissioner of Labour;

(*i*) whether the said Union has objected to the stopping of the conciliations and negotiations by the Commissioner of Labour and has intimated that in view of his attitude the Union would call for a strike as per notice kept under suspense in view of the conciliation proceedings; and

(*j*) at whose request the Court of Enquiry was constituted?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The object of the enquiry is to have a comprehensive picture of the conditions of service of the workers in the motor transport services, motor transport workshops, engineering firms and type foundries in the province in order to standardize them as far as possible.

" (*c*) Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, is the Court of Enquiry and it was constituted on the report of the Commissioner of Labour that the conditions of the workers in these concerns are unsatisfactory.

" (*d*) No, Sir.

" (*e*) No, Sir.

" (*f*) The question does not arise.

" (*g*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the latter part in the negative.

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" (h) Conciliation in respect of general matters such as rates of wages, bonus, etc., will be given up but matters relating to individual foundries and points not covered by the Court of Enquiry will continue to be looked into.

" (i) It is understood that no notice of strike has been served but that the hon. Member in his capacity as the President of the Madras Provincial Foundry Smithy Workers' Union, has written to the Commissioner of Labour, that the Union would serve notice of strike if the demands were not settled immediately.

" (j) The Court of Enquiry was appointed at the instance of the Commissioner of Labour."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether Government will resort to the appointment of a Court of Enquiry only when all methods of conciliation have failed? Am I right in thinking so? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not concede that proposition, as a rule. But wherever there is difficulty, and nothing less than a Court of Enquiry would settle the matter, Government will always appoint a Court of Enquiry."

Producers'-cum-consumers' societies.

* 162 Q.—K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Abdul Latif Farookhi Sahib Bahadur) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the organization of the producers'-cum-consumers' societies was opposed by the public in the delta and that the share capital was collected by official pressure and not paid voluntarily by the members;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Co-operative department expressed no great hopes about the working of these societies;

(c) why the Co-operative department was not asked to lend the services of experienced Co-operative officials for the posts of secretaries;

(d) why no Muslim was selected as secretary of any of the societies;

(e) whether it is a fact that the secretaries were selected mostly from amongst Congressmen;

(f) whether it is a fact that the ration shops that were hitherto managed by other co-operative societies and retailers were also being forced to be taken up by these new societies; and

(g) whether it is a fact that the Muslim retailers and Harijan retailers were not exempted from such coercion?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) Share capital was not collected by official pressure. It was obtained on a voluntary basis. There was no general opposition but certain sections of the public who were likely to be affected by the formation of the societies did not welcome the scheme. No